

REMARKS

Claims 10-14 are in the application. They replace claims 1-9 which have been deleted.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mercer et al. in view of Salter Jr., are respectfully requested.

As a result of the foregoing amendment, the claims have been rewritten to distinguish over the prior art of record.

Claim 10 sets forth in subparagraph a) the feature of original claim 1 and features set forth in the paragraph bridging pages 4 and 5 of the specification, in subparagraph b) the feature of original claim 2 and a feature of page 6, second full paragraph, and in subparagraph c) the original claim 3 and features from the second and third full paragraphs of page 6 of the specification.

Accordingly, no new matter has been added as a result of the amendments to the claims.

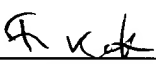
Applicant respectfully submits that the prior art of record does not disclose or suggest the roll stand as it is now set forth in claim 10.

Specifically, applicants submit that the prior art relied on by the Examiner does not disclose or suggest the mounting of rolls in a hydrodynamic oil film bearing, so that the integration of a hydraulic unit for the axial displacement of the rolls in such a hydrodynamic oil film bearing according to the present invention as set forth in claim 10 is clearly patentably distinct over the prior art of record.

Therefore, in view of the foregoing, it is submitted that this application is now in condition for allowance and such allowance is respectfully solicited.

Any additional fees or charges required at this time in connection with the application may be charged to Patent and Trademark Office Deposit Account No. 11-1835.

Respectfully submitted,



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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on July 30, 2003

By: 
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Date: July 30, 2003